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July 18, 1969

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## MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Dean Moor

THROUGH: John Holdridge

SUBJECT: Presidential Request

The President has asked that you report to him concerning the prospects for a GVN victory in SVN. The President's interest was sparked by a St. Louis Post Dispatch news article by Richard Dudman which alleged that a recent "inquiry" by the paper showed the prospects for the "anti-Communist" side in SVN "poor and worsening." (Tab B) The article alleged that Thieu had narrowed rather than broadened his government over the past few months.

The President believes the news article to be completely incorrect.

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The U. S. Mission in Saigon does take periodic samples of SVN public opinion. The latest one in June tended to bear out the contention that popular confidence in the GVN's ability to win is slipping (Tab C). It is clear, however, that Dudman's article greatly exaggerates the difficulties in all respects. We have prepared a memorandum which, we believe, depicts the present situation more accurately.

## RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab A.

NSS review completed.

Attachments

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DM:mlb (7/18/69)